Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 205594

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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO USCINCEUR

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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 205594

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MILI, NI

SUBJECT: DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE FOR TRAINING OF NIGERIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL

REF: (A) STATE 124279; (B) 186985; (C) LAGOS 7836

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

1. WHILE NOTING EMBASSY VIEWS DEEMING IT INFEASIBLE TO PURSUE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TRAINING DEBT, DEPARTMENT AND DOD BELIEVE MATTER MUST BE RESOLVED ON URGENT BASIS. FAILURE TO LIQUIDATE DEBT COULD WELL RESULT IN SUSPENSION CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 205594

OF PROGRAMMED FY 76 ARMY TRAINING, THEREBY CREATING POTENTIAL FOR AGGRAVATING BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN ADDITION, INACTION WITH RESPECT TO DELINQUENT DEBTS IS INCONSISTENT WITH PRINCIPLES OF PRUDENT FISCAL MANAGE-

MENT AND WITH SENSE OF CONGRESS AS EXPRESSED IN SECTION 56 OF FAA OF 1974 TO THE EFFECT THAT PRESIDENT SHALL PROMPTLY ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH COUNTRIES RECEIVING ASSISTANCE UNDER FAA TO EFFECTUATE PAYMENT OF ANY DELIN-QUENCIES IN PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON LOANS OR CREDITS FROM USG.

- 2. FACTS CONCERNING THESE DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN MAILED TO GON EMBASSY HERE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING PAST 27 MONTHS (REF A). NIGERIA APPARENTLY DID NOT RESPOND TO PRIOR NOTICE TRANSMITTED VIA USAMC MESSAGE DTG 211958Z NOV 74 TO USDAO LAGOS. DURING 3 MONTHS SINCE KEY RELEVANT FACTS WERE RELAYED TELEPHONICALLY BY DOD/ISA TO COL AISIDA (19 MAY 75), GON HAS EVIDENCED NO INTENT TO PAY. WHEN QUERIED BY DOD/ISA ON 21 AUG, COL AISIDA STATED THAT HE HAD DISPATCHED LETTER SUMMARIZ-ING ARREARAGE HISTORY TO SUPREME HEADQUARTERS O/A 20 MAY, BUT HAD NOT RECEIVED RESPONSE. UPON BEING INFORMED THAT FAILURE TO LIQUIDATE ARREARAGE HAD CAUSED ACTION TO BE SUSPENDED ON ARMY FY 76 LOA. COL AISIDA STATED THAT HE COULD NOT ACT WITHOUT SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS AND FUNDS FROM SUPREME HEADOUARTERS BUT WOULD SEND MESSAGE REITER-ATING PROBLEM. COL AISIDA ASSERTS THAT HE HAS NEVER RECEIVED BILLING LETTERS FROM USAILC AND GIVES NO INDI-CATION THAT HE INTENDS TO RESOLVE ARREARAGE ISSUE.
- 3. NIGERIAN PREFERENCE FOR QUARTERLY BILLING (REF C) IS NOT ACCEPTABLE SINCE THAT IS PROCEDURE UNDER WHICH CURRENT DELINQUENCY WAS GENERATED. DOD PROPOSES TO CONTINUE USAF AND US NAVY TRAINING DURING 1QFY 76 BASED ON NIGERIAN RECORD OF HAVING MADE SUBSTANTIAL PAYMENTS DURING PAST THREE YEARS, BUT TO INITIATE NO ARMY TRAINING AFTER 1 SEP 75 PENDING RECEIPT OF PAYMENT FOR ACCOUNTS DELINQUENT. CONTINUATION OF USAF TRAINING AFTER 1 OCT 75 IS CONTINGENT UPON RECEIVING NIGERIAN PAYMENTS SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCING OUTSTANDING BALANCE WHICH HAS ROUTINELY BEEN ABOUT \$2 MILLION. INGERSOLL CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 205594

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